

women and girls. Studies have proven that the more girls that are enrolled in schools in developing countries, the more the population of that country stabilizes. And the more stable the country, the more violence decreases. In fact, domestic violence lessens and crime levels decrease in line with educational opportunities.

We must prevent future acts of the terrorism, and SMART security is a way to do it. Instead of trying to spread democracy through the barrel of a gun, like we have been in Iraq, let us spread it through books, by increasing educational opportunities for women and girls. Today, International Women's Day, let us make it a priority to ensure that women in the poorest countries receive the educational opportunities they need and deserve.

Just as important, women need to be encouraged and allowed to participate in the political process in every country if we are to see a more secure world. And above all else, we must remember that if international security efforts fail to include women, then they are excluding more than half of the world's population. Let us include all of the world's population and let us secure our world for the 21st century.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we all support American manufacturers; every Member of Congress should. But feel-good resolutions such as the one we are voting on this week will do little to cure our manufacturing ills.

We are running record trade deficits each year. When I first ran for Congress in 1992, the U.S. trade deficit, as you can see on this chart, was \$38 billion. The trade deficit last year, after 12 years of misplaced trade policy, 12 years of misplaced tax policy and 4 years of a Bush administration that has totally ignored manufacturing, we now see a trade deficit of \$617 billion. From \$38 billion to \$617 billion in a space of only 13 years.

The U.S. has become the world's largest debtor nation, over \$2.5 trillion in 2002. The dollar continues to lose value in world markets.

Last year, we had the opportunity to pass Crane/Rangel, a bipartisan bill to

help the American manufacturing industry by encouraging them to produce goods in the United States. But instead, we passed an alternative that, as usual, gave handouts to multinational corporations and did little to nothing for our family-owned manufacturing facilities.

My State of Ohio has lost more than 170,000 manufacturing jobs since 2001, and the remaining small manufacturing businesses are struggling to keep the doors open. The manufacturing extension program, MEP, is an important resource that helps small manufacturers in Ohio and across the country to help improve efficiency, increase competitiveness and stay in business. Despite this success, the President is asking in his budget to eviscerate MEP.

In 2003, when MEP was funded at \$111 million, Ohio, although only receiving a small fraction of that funding, that modest investment produced impressive results. MEP helped more than 2,700 Ohio businesses to create or retain more than 1,100 jobs, increase sales by \$20 million, cut costs by \$47 million, increase investments by \$58 million. That is exactly the sort of helping hand Ohio and the Nation's small manufacturers need.

Then the President proposed an MEP funding cut of 88 percent, ended up signing a law a couple of years ago that cut it almost that much. Not surprisingly, services to Ohio businesses dropped significantly. This year, the President's budget request asked for a funding cut of another 50 percent. Less than \$1 million per State will be left for MEP. We should be supporting a funding level five times that amount because it would mean more tax revenue, more jobs, more success for U.S. manufacturers.

Ohio's Republican governors urge the President to change his position on MEP. Working men and women from my State and across the Nation understand that our economic future is at stake. We should pass a bill this week ensuring increased MEP funds over the President's request, but this body probably will not do it.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass a bill to stop China from manipulating its currency by artificially pegging it below the dollar. China starts outs with a 40 percent advantage over American manufacturers by this illegal act, not to mention having no minimum wage and forced labor camps and child labor and all the other advantages, artificial advantages if you will, in a free marketplace that China has. But I do not think that legislation to deal with currency manipulating will be on the House floor this week.

To support our Nation's manufacturers, we should pass such a bill making sure China plays fair and meets its World Trade Organization obligations,

but I do not see a bill on the floor this week to do that.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass the bill of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Foreign Debt Ceiling Act of 2005, that would create an emergency trade review group at the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to develop a plan of action if the trade deficit is above 5 percent of U.S. GDP or if foreign debt climbs above 25 percent of GDP. But that is not being considered this week either.

The manufacturing industry is the backbone of our country. This industry, these workers, these communities built America. And when these industries suffer, our communities suffer, our families suffer, our schools suffer, our Nation is hurt. Yet many in Congress continue to support measures that move these jobs overseas. Let us be clear about whom we should support.

Congratulate manufacturers, is what the resolution on the floor will do and nothing else this week, who have remained in the U.S. and refrained from sending manufacturing jobs overseas. But it is not just about keeping our middle class strong; we should be concerned about national security. Without a strong manufacturing base, there can be no strong reliable national security in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we, finally, in this Congress adopt a manufacturing policy.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hearing a lot of information about our Social Security system, and I am sure they have got legitimate questions: Is there a crisis or not? If there is a crisis, then is there a trust fund or not? If there is not a trust fund, where did it go, who took it and when?

There are, of course, those who say that there is no crisis, that we have a system that is awash in cash and can fund all future benefits but it needs minor tweaking to ensure solvency.

Perhaps crisis is the wrong word. Captive may be a better selection because certainly we are held captive by